

15,000 In South Given FCA Loans

During the first quarter of 1935, the Farm Credit Administration of New Orleans closed loans to more than 15,000 farmer-borrowers in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, amounting to approximately \$14,000,000, according to figures made public yesterday by Judge J. M. Thomas, general agent of the FCA. This large volume, it was explained, has helped farmers reduce their mortgage indebtedness, financed the planting of crops, and has enabled them to purchase the necessary supplies at the benefit of cash prices.

The loans are distributed among the various units of the Farm Credit Administration as follows: Federal Land Bank and Commissioner loans, \$2,180,242; discounts through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, for production credit associations, livestock companies, agricultural credit corporations, \$11,590,165; Bank for Cooperatives for cooperative marketing and purchasing associations, \$560,000.

"These loans are not only helping farmers to become self-supporting," said Judge Thomas, "but are aiding banks and merchants in early community. A large part of the Land Bank Commissioner's loans go to local banks to help liquidate frozen assets, and to merchants to pay off long-outstanding accounts. At the same time, production credit associations are enabling farmers to pay cash for their purchases, thereby giving an impetus to local business.

"More and more farmers are beginning to realize just what the Farm Credit Administration means to them, and are endeavoring to use their credit wisely, to limit their borrowing to the amount of money actually needed. All credit institutions under the FCA are, in turn, trying to lighten the farmer's debt, and to help him, by the efficient use of low-cost credit, gradually and systematically to become the sole owner of his farm business," the statement continued.

Fourteen Virginia State College Graduates and Professor J. E. Settle Buy 409-Acre Farm Costing \$12,000 As A Nucleus

DENIAL OF JOBS CAUSED GROUP TO ORGANIZE Project Has Endorsement of Influential Citizens and Received Aid From Federal Farm Credit Administration

By G. G. SINGLETON

PETERSBURG, Va.—Fourteen graduates of the department of animal husbandry of Virginia State College, under the leadership of Chairman J. E. Settle, have organized a unique cooperative association which will in the very near future, pioneer in the field of large scale live stock production and darning in Virginia.

The project bearing the endorsement of business and professional men of Petersburg and the people of the college community, is the brain child of Mr. Settle, who is head of the college's department of animal husbandry. For several years Mr. Settle has dreamed of such an organization, the idea being inspired by the refusal of white dairy and poultry concerns to give employment to trained Negroes. His dream is about to come true.

Big Farm Purchased

Already the organization has purchased a 409-acre farm, located four and one half miles from the college campus, at a cost of \$12,000, thus providing a splendid nucleus for the extensive project. The farm has two dwelling houses, and a growing crop under cultivation. Included in the acreage is some valuable timber land. Historic Swift Creek provides one and one half miles of waterfront.

This farm, which the organization took title to on July 16, is an ideal location for the purpose for which it is to be used, and has promising future prospects. On it will be produced the live stock, poultry, and dairy animals to be used in the business. Capital for the initial financing was contributed by the organizers themselves. A loan from the Federation Farm Credit Administration was a major assistance.

Plan to Build Plant

Next on the program will be acquisition of a site and the construction of a plant for the manu-

facture and sale of ice cream and dairy products in Petersburg. One retail store will be established at first, gradual expansion following as conditions warrant.

Joining with the department of animal husbandry in the project is the college's department of business administration, the former concentrating on production and the latter on accounting, sales, and retail store management. Other departments of the college will contribute their special skills and aptitudes.

As at present organized, the legal status of the association is that of a partnership; but in order to insure stability and to provide means of raising additional capital for the further development of the project, plans for incorporation are now being formulated. When incorporation has been accomplished shares of stock will be offered to persons interested in an organization with objectives and future prospects such as this one offers.

Officers and Members

Officers and members of the organization are: president, S. F. Brown, Boulevard, Va.; vice president, A. H. Shelton, Dillwyn, Va.; treasurer, R. O. Harris, Red Oak, Va.; secretary, A. C. Jonas, Charles City, Va.; directors: S. F. Brown, A. H. Shelton, R. O. Harris, A. G. Jones, C. E. Clark and J. E. Settle, chairman.

Members are: Wm. S. Barbin, Hot Springs, Arkansas; A. H. Shelton, Dillwyn, Va.; C. E. Clarke, Princess Anne, Md.; Stansley F. Brown, Boluevard, Va.; K. H. Pretlow, Smithfield, Va.; B. F. Harrison, Blackridge, Va.; Robert O. Harris, Red Oak, Va.; Paul C. Lowe, Waverly, Va.; Juber L. Lowe, Waverly, Va.; J. M. Charity, Charles City, Va.; Arthur C. Jones, Ruthville, Va.; Woodward W. Privott, Princess Anne, Md.; Arthur N. Wise, Champ, Md.; Junius Jones, South Hill, Va.

Objectives Outline

Inspired by broad social and economic motives the organization has far-reaching objectives. It will devote the combined skill, training, and capital of its associates toward (1) the promotion of the animal industry in the state; (2) the provisions of future employment for trained men in animal husbandry, agriculture, dairying, poultry raising, and business; (3) the production and marketing of farm poultry, and dairy products, and live stock, including horses, cattle, and hogs; and (4) the operation of a model demonstration animal husbandry and business project for trained Negro youths.

In order to accomplish these objectives the organization, as at present planned, will be thoroughly integrated, having control over the complete production and marketing processes of its products. It will produce its own raw materials on its farm, manufacture dairy products and ice cream in its own model plant, and distribute to consumers through its own retail establishments, which will be located in Petersburg and perhaps Richmond.

FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS—

One of the most unfortunate problems from which Negroes suffer in the United States is the problem of personal credit. Poor white people suffer from this problem, too, but the lack of credit for legitimate purposes is one of the vicissitudes of insecurity which face most Negroes. And even where there is credit available, it is at such unconscionable rates that the average Negro has to almost sell his soul to get a little needed ready cash.

On June 21, 1934, President Roosevelt approved what is known as the "Federal Credit Union Act." It provides for the organization by people having a common bond of occupation or association of "Federal Credit Unions," for the dual purpose of providing a safe method of accumulating savings and a place where the members may borrow reasonable amounts for legitimate purposes.

Last week, J. A. Hunt, of the Federal Farm Credit Administration, who is one of the Negroes holding responsible positions in the New Deal, was in Texas explaining the benefits which Negroes are securing and may secure from the various services of the Farm Credit Administration, and especially pointing out the importance and possibilities to Negroes in these new Federal corporations to promote thrift and provide credit.

I am convinced that the future of Negro business, as long as the institution of economic capitalism endures, lies in cooperative effort, if there is to be any future of Negro business as such. So far as credit is concerned we cannot hope for adequate service from existing institutions. We must either take advantage of such possibilities as are offered by these Federal Credit Unions, or we must remain without the credit which we sorely need.

Here is a practical opportunity for the departments of economics of the Negro colleges of Texas. Instead of merely teaching Negro youth the economic principles of the credit institutions which now deny credit to Negroes, why not lead the Negroes of Texas into forming and conducting for their own benefit some of these Federal Credit Unions? In them we may provide our own organizations for accumulating savings and provide a source for needed credit. The first step is to begin to study these Federal Credit Unions.

Funds Are Being Sought To Buy District Rehabilitation Farm

Rural Relief Agency Asks Quarter Million to Purchase Tillery Project—Five Thousand Acre Tract is Located on Roanoke River

The North Carolina Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, until recently functioning under the NCERA but now going under the sponsorship of the Rural Resettlement Administration, of which Rexford Guy Tugwell is chief, has already made requisition to the Federal government for a quarter of a million dollars to purchase the 5,000-acre farm tract near the Caledonia State Farm at Tillery, in Halifax County, upon which a rehabilitation project has been going forward for some time, it has been revealed.

The farm, comprising 3,200 acres of cleared land, is located on the Roanoke River and has been leased from Messrs. Tillery, Pierce, Jones and Fenner for three years with the option of outright purchase. No cash is to be paid for rent, compensation to be made to the lessors in the form of part of the crop.

With 88 families, the majority of them Negro, already quartered and crops growing splendidly, the work is showing gratifying results, officials said. Four houses are occupied by farm officials and employees.

A total of 92 houses are now being occupied, 73 of them being new structures and the remainder renovated.

The houses, built in two rows, each row 500 yards apart, one for white families and one for colored are on temporary foundations, making it possible later to remove them to sites allocated by farm officials.

With a group of 150 men working on them an average of only three and one-half working hours were required to complete a three-room house.

Largest of Kind

This is the largest rehabilitation project in the State.

There are about 800 acres of cotton, 300 of peanuts, 500 of grain and approximately 1,000 of grain and corn under cultivation.

Families of six or less members are occupying three-room dwellings, those of eight members, four-room dwellings, and those of 10 members have five rooms. There is one family of 20 members on the farm.

The families chosen are those of destitute farmers and are taken from relief rolls restricted to agricultural workers. They are issued food, clothing, etc., on orders, and are allowed to pay for their upkeep and eventually to buy the land by payment in farm products. Already the 150 mules furnished by the government have been bought by the farm occupants.

The land is divided so that families operating a two-horse crop are allowed 40 acres, while the balance, operating one-horse crops, are apportioned 20 acres.

Each farmer works his own land, although generally three families combine their efforts on adjacent plots.

The Rural Rehabilitation Corporation, a non-profit organization, authorized by the 1935 Legislature, now has between 7,000 and 8,000 persons in rehabilitation farms in North Carolina. There are also 7,000 mules and 600 oxen employed on these projects.

The aim of the program is, of course, to allow destitute families to salvage themselves rather than to be placed directly on a dole. Under the plan, these families can eventually pay for their farms, the corporation affording them the means of earning a livelihood meanwhile.

With 700 people on the farm negotiations are underway to get a full time physician on the farm and install a telephone in the farm office.

Officers of the corporation are: Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, State relief administration, president; Leland P. Kitchen, Scotland Neck, vice-president, and the following directors: C. A. Dillon, Raleigh; Dr. Carl Taylor, Washington; Dr. Howard Odum, Chapel Hill; T. E. Brown, Raleigh; Dean I. O. Schaub, N. C. State College; Col. Terry Lyon, Fayetteville; A. H. Ward, Washington, southeastern regional head of the rural resettlement; and V. E. Swift, acting director of rural resettlement. The president and vice-president are also directors.

The corporation is carrying forward other projects in the district comprising Halifax, Hertford and Northampton counties. One of the most important is a drainage program on the Magnolia farm near Columbia, for which requisition of \$90,000 already has been made on the Federal government.

N. J. Sheppard, of Weldon, is district supervisor; Capt. W. W. Cook is superintendent of the farm and lives in the former June Tillery home on that farm; Miss Mary Leight is case worker; N. B. Josey is bookkeeper, and Hilton Pope and Willis Dickens are the foremen. Ira J. Hoover is district farm supervisor.